
CENTRAL MONTANA REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
A Consortium of Health Care Facilities
Dedicated to the Care of the Trauma Patient

CENTRAL REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 2004
Benefis Healthcare, Great Falls, MT.

PRESENT: Michael B. Orcutt, MD, CRTAC Chairman, Great Falls
Pete Lucas, RN, CRTAC Secretary, Great Falls
Carol Kussman, RN, Helena
Carol Tadge, RN, Fort Benton
Beverly Zehntner, RN, WWS
James Zehntner, EMT, WWS
Riki Handstede, RN, Havre
Tim Sinton, PA, Choteau

GUESTS: Thom Danenhowe, State Injury Prevention Program Coordinator
Karen Sowa, REACH, Benefis Healthcare

ABSENT: **Representatives from:**

Cutbank	Fort Belknap
Rocky Boy	Big Sandy
Browning	Townsend
Chester	Shelby

Chairman, Michael Orcutt, RN at 1230 p.m., called the Central Montana Rural Trauma Advisory Committee (CRTAC) to order. Benefis Healthcare hosted a lunch prior to the meeting. Roll call was taken. The minutes of the last meeting were re-capped and approved.

STATE TRAUMA CARE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: The next STCC meeting is set for Monday August 9th, 2004 in Helena. Dr. Orcutt stated that the STCC has been looking into the possibility of forming a foundation for grant and gift purposes. The CIT (Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation) has been suggested as a viable option. More information will be available after the next meeting.

INTER-FACILITY TRANSFER GUIDELINES: These are guidelines to be used by facilities to steer their transfer choices. Pete sent copies of the guidelines to all facilities within the region with the last CRTAC meeting minute mailing. Dr. Orcutt motioned to adopt these guidelines (not protocols) within the Central region. The motion was seconded, and carried. Pete will again provide copies of the guidelines to all facilities.

CRTAC SUBCOMMITTEES:

- 1. Injury Prevention and Public Education:** Pete provided information to include:

1. A STN (Society of Trauma Nurses) course was successfully completed in White Sulphur Springs and was attended by four RN's and four LPN's. Feedback was positive.
 2. The "Safety First Rally" day sponsored by Benefis Healthcare and Benefis Healthcare Foundation was a huge success with over 800 helmets being correctly fitted and given away. In addition to the helmets, 250 safety packs were also given away.
 3. The Great Falls Railyard and Skate Park adopted ordinance 2878 making it mandatory for skaters to use helmets. Benefis Healthcare and the Benefis Healthcare Foundation will provide helmets that the city can rent or loan to skaters.
 4. TNCC course to be held in Havre this fall.
 5. ENPC course to be held in Helena this fall.
 6. A TBI instructor course will be coming to Great Falls this fall (October) which will entail an 8 hour Saturday. Pete will notify you of the date.
 7. The RMRTS will be held in Great Falls on September 9-10. Scholarships are available to facilities to offset expenses. Please contact Pete with possible candidates, either pre-hospital or hospital based.
- 2. Pre-Hospital:** Rosie shared with the committee that attendance is dwindling and is an ongoing problem. Case reviews have been discussed and no increase in participation has been noted. Medical direction discussion has been successfully done in the Western RTAC. The East RTAC attendance seems to be very similar to the Central RTAC. EMS participant job conflicts have also been a contributing factor to the poor attendance.
- 3. Regional Trauma Plan:** No report available at this time.
- 4. Quality Improvement:** One case will be discussed upon adjournment of the Central RTAC meeting.

STATE TRAUMA REPORT: Thom gave Kim's report and highlighted the updated version of "White Crosses" on powerpoint and this is available for download from the EMS website. There has also been a "STAT Man" purchased for each region and should arrive soon. This mannequin has airway, IV, chest tube, etc capabilities and should enhance the education provided by the larger facilities. There is increased money available for education and equipment. A lot of the grants available for disasters and weapons of mass destruction are available for "trauma" equipment and training. Trauma may even be able to glean money off the tobacco settlement. Rosie may look into this information and report back to the committee. The TOPIC (Trauma Outcomes & Performance Improvement Course) will be held on September 8th, the day before the RMRTS at the Heritage Inn. Please contact Pete if you have interested candidates and money will be available to offset expenses.

STATE INJURY PREVENTION REPORT: Thom shared with the committee that there is a Injury Prevention "how to" booklet being finalized and will soon be to print and available as a resource to all the regions. Hot topics being targeted for the legislative session will include: primary seat belt law, graduated licensing, open container laws. There is also money available for ER education on simple Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Thom also distributed the new Montana Tobacco "QuitLine," providing resources

to quit smoking and smokeless tobacco. Also of note, the new section title where Thom and Kim are located is called **EMS & Trauma System Section**, and they are located in the same building (Cogswell) suite 317.

CRTAC EDUCATION GRANT FROM THE GENERAL FUND: The CRTAC has received another \$5000 grant to help defray costs of providing education to the region. All of the RTAC's have received the \$5,000.00 grant to facilitate the rollout of the new Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) course, as well as the Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) course within the regions. The intent of the money is to defray costs to facilities and pre-hospital personnel. Pete provided an overview of the courses with the only stipulation being that the course is held within the region at hosting facilities, or contains regional participants. Don't forget to contact Pete with interested participants for RMRTS in September, as money is available to cover registration at least. This will depend on the response from facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1400 after roundtable.

The next CRTAC meeting will be in Great Falls on October 28, 2004 in the DuFresne auditorium on Benefis Healthcare East Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pete Lucas, RN, TNC
Secretary, Central RTAC
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